

Tammy Frias Sandpointe



In March 2025, a housing project next to Sandpointe threatened parking, traffic, and student safety. Tammy met repeatedly with City officials, the developer, and the owner, resulting in the project's cancellation and new talks about public-benefit use. This kind of turnaround is rare and benefits the entire Ward.

For the past year, Tammy has worked to stop 40 townhomes at 621 Alton that would worsen traffic, parking, and student drop-off. Her goal is to secure a community center—the only Ward without one—and her efforts merit a Neighborhood Hero award.

Johan Arana Santa Ana Memorial Park



Johan has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the community through his active involvement in neighborhood events, meetings, and improvement efforts. A reliable and trusted resource for residents, he regularly shares information, connects neighbors to services, and helps address community concerns.

He has played an important role in initiatives such as Dumpster Day and has advocated for neighbors impacted by Bristol Street construction, working to ensure their voices are heard. Johan's dedication, leadership, and genuine care for others make him a true Neighborhood Hero.

Maureen Tiritilli Washington Square

Maureen has shown exceptional dedication and leadership in the Washington Square neighborhood through years of consistent service. She served for several years as newsletter editor and recently took on additional roles as membership chair and advertising manager, helping strengthen neighborhood communication and connection.

Alongside her husband, Terry, Maureen has balanced family and professional responsibilities while remaining deeply involved in community life and neighborhood events, including the recent 40th anniversary celebration. Her generosity, leadership, and long-standing commitment have made a lasting impact on the community and make her a truly deserving Neighborhood Hero.

Dorian Romero Williard



Dorian has continuously shown up for her community through her work with Santa Ana Active Streets. Spearheading programs that help our youth not only stay safe while riding their bikes or walking the streets but also giving them the skills to fix

their own bikes. In the last few years, she has helped bring exciting events to life in the Willard neighborhood and has helped with our quarterly neighborhood cleanups. Her efforts have made a big impact!

Ricki Older Wilshire Square

Ricki's contributions to the Wilshire Square community have been endless. From leading events such as the Holiday Parade, teas, and home tours to supporting neighbors and mentoring community leaders, she consistently demonstrates dedication to neighborhood spirit and connection.

She has also contributed to neighborhood newsletters and remains a trusted source of advice and support. Ricki is truly a treasure to both Wilshire Square and the City of Santa Ana and will always be our Neighborhood Hero.



Neighborhood Heroes

2026

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Bowers Museum

2002 N. Main Street

A Neighborhood Hero is someone who consistently works to improve our neighborhoods, block by block to make the neighborhood, and Santa Ana a better place.

Alex Fitch Fisher Park



As the Communication lead for the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association, Alex Fitch has been a true Neighborhood Hero. Despite a busy professional and personal life, he has done an outstanding job

managing social media, email communications, and newsletters that all help keep our Fisher Park residents informed and connected.

Megan Jane, Heninger Park



Megan has been actively involved in the Heninger Park neighborhood for several years. Recently, she organized and facilitated two neighborhood cleanups, turning dumpster days

into community events focused on meeting neighbors and building friendships.

She also maintains a little free library in the neighborhood parkway, keeping it stocked with donated books for residents to enjoy. In addition, Megan advocates for the care of neighborhood cats and kittens and has contributed to the historic preservation of her home.

Megan is Heninger Park's 2026 Neighborhood Hero.

Denise and Lyle Dale Morrison Park



Denise and Lyle Dale are longtime residents of the Morrison Park neighborhood who have dedicated countless hours to improving neighborhood safety and

community connection. After identifying concerns with cut-through traffic near Park Lane and

and Bristol Street, they worked closely with neighbors, city officials, and the MPNA Traffic Committee to research solutions and advocate for safer streets. Their efforts helped lead to the successful removal of the left-turn lane from North Bristol Street to Park Lane following a community survey and test period.

In addition to their traffic safety work, Denise and Lyle help distribute neighborhood newsletters and flyers to more than 100 homes, strengthening communication and relationships throughout Morrison Park. Their leadership, dedication, and commitment to our community make them deserving recipients of the 2026 Neighborhood Hero Award.

David Gonzalez Pacific Park

David, chairperson of the Pacific Park Neighborhood Association, has helped keep the neighborhood organized, informed, and moving forward with a positive, solutions-focused approach. He works closely with City representatives to coordinate efforts and lead productive meetings. As a proud resident of Pacific Park, David is deeply committed to our community and its future success.

Raymond Ybarra Portola Park



Raymond Ybarra has been a dedicated resident and leader in the Portola Park neighborhood for 50 years. A lifelong Santa Ana resident, Army veteran and retired postal worker, Raymond has spent decades serving his

community as a block captain, organizing neighborhood cleanups, distributing community information, supporting local events, and helping secure residential parking permits.

Known for his kindness and generosity, Raymond has always looked out for his neighbors – from helping with everyday needs to supporting families during difficult times.

Alongside his wife, Beatrice, he has also volunteered with youth programs and community organizations throughout Santa Ana.

Today, Raymond continues to build community by helping organize neighborhood gatherings and staying connected with residents through a neighborhood text thread. His lifelong dedication, compassion, and commitment to serving others make him a true Neighborhood Hero.

Anthony Nguyen Republic Homes

Anthony dedicated significant time and effort to helping the Republic Homes neighborhood secure enough votes to achieve a quorum for permit parking on Renee Drive. Through many, many evenings spent walking door-to-door and speaking with neighbors, he played an important role in helping the community achieve much-needed permit parking.

Pietra Gaw Riverview



Pietra Gaw has been a dedicated resident of the Riverview neighborhood for more than 30 years. She is a strong advocate for improving quality of life in the community and consistently works to protect and support the neighborhood alongside her husband.

Pietra actively participates in neighborhood meetings, community activities, and Santa Ana City Council meetings, and she also volunteers with the Women's Club of Orange. Her dedication and service make her truly deserving of this award.